



ZUMA/TRANCAS CANYONS



uma! It is derived from the Chumash word for “abundance.” Certainly, Zuma and neighboring Trancas Canyons satisfy this description. The perennial streams running through these canyons give rise to an abundance of animal and plant life. These same natural resources have influenced and given rise to a long and rich cultural history.

While venturing through the canyons, look and listen for the signs of life around you. Walk carefully along the trails and discover tracks of deer, rabbit and coyote. Marvel at the delicate homes of funnel web spiders hiding in earth’s tiny crevices. Listen for the shy wren-tit, the “voice of the chaparral.” Though rarely seen, its call sounds like a ping-pong ball echoing throughout the canyon.

For more than 10,000 years, Zuma and Trancas Canyons have been home to animal, plant, and human communities. Chumash ancestors walked here, gathering food and materials for tools and shelter. During the Spanish period (1769-1848), a Mexican Land Grant united the canyons for the first time under one name—*Rancho Topanga Malibu Sequit*. The 13,330 acre grant included coastal areas from Santa Monica to Point Mugu.

Frederick and May Rindge bought the property in 1892 and renamed it *Rancho Malibu*. They adopted a policy of no through roads and no right-of-way granted to trespassers. May Rindge continued this policy after her husband’s death. As the legendary “Queen of Malibu,” she depleted her fortune while trying to maintain the integrity of her property. Still, after twenty years, the U. S. Supreme Court forced her to allow the Pacific Coast Highway through her ranch.

This scenic highway made the area more accessible to a greater population, forever changing California’s coast. However, Zuma and Trancas Canyons remained minimally developed. Throughout their history, these canyons have had many names, many residents, and many owners. Preserved by the National Park Service, their *zuma* or their abundance of resources and beauty remain for you to experience.



National Park Service
Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks CA 91360

Visitor Center 805-370-2301
In emergency: dial 911

Information & Safety

Natural and cultural features are protected and may not be collected.

Dogs must be on a leash at all times. For the health and consideration of others, clean up after your pet.

Firearms are not allowed on public lands in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Hikers must yield to horseback riders. **Bicyclists** must ride courteously and yield to hikers and horseback riders.

Horseback riders should communicate with passing hikers and bicyclists, letting them know how to pass. Let others know when you wish to pass, and do so on the left. Horses that kick should wear red flags on their tails.

Fire is a constant danger. Open fires are prohibited. Smoking is not permitted while traveling on trails.

Trail closures will be in effect during and following significant rainfall to protect park resources. Trails will be reopened when dry enough to sustain public use.

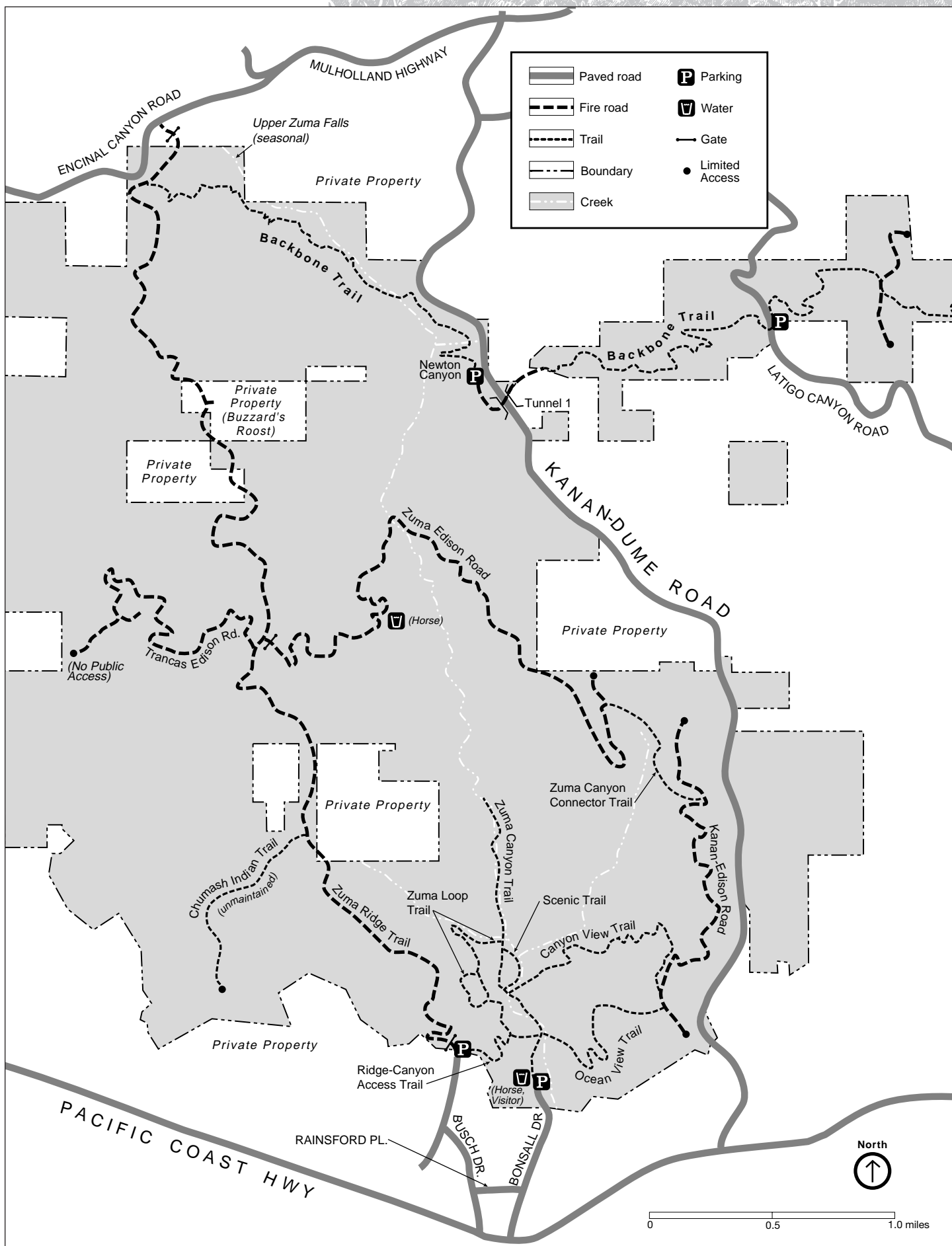
Stay on established trails and off of private property.

Learn to recognize and be alert for **ticks**, **bees**, **rattlesnakes**, and **poison oak**.

Motorized vehicles are not permitted on trails or fire roads.

Water from streams and ponds is not safe to drink due to possible contamination or the presence of the giardia protozoan.

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Trails

Zuma Loop Trail 2 miles, easy; no bikes—Traveling along the base of Zuma Canyon, this trail features large and graceful sycamore, oak, willow, and black walnut trees in a rare hardwood riparian environment. Also discover dry wash plant communities. These delicate looking plants have the ability to bend under the weight of raging waters, ensuring their survival year after year.

Backbone Trail 2.5 miles to Zuma Ridge Trail, easy to moderate—This trail begins at the Newton Canyon Parking Lot on Kanan-Dume Road. The

winding trail leads to the Upper Zuma Falls, which are especially grand after the winter rains. Watch out for poison oak along wet areas.

Zuma Ridge Trail 6 miles, moderate to strenuous—Beginning at the Busch Drive parking lot, this fire road ascends to Encinal Canyon Road and along the ridge between Zuma and Trancas Canyons. Don't forget to look around and enjoy the views of the ocean. Trancas Edison Road and Zuma Edison Road intersect the Zuma Ridge Trail for a cross section of the site. Joined together, this

large area is a core habitat providing enough food, shelter, water and space for a variety of plant and animal life.

Ocean View Trail and Canyon View Trail 3 miles, moderate; no bikes—These trails extend from the Zuma Canyon Trail and wind through chaparral, offering good views of the ocean and the canyon floor. The trails also pass through a coastal sage scrub community. The partially woody shrubs are sometimes called "soft chaparral" because of their flexible leaves and stems.